

# World Cup 2010 News Summary

June 9-10, 2010

A selection of World Cup 2010 highlights from the media

- Police Following 'Good Lead' To Catch Portuguese Journalists' Robbers
- RSA Authorities Refuse Entry to 'Another' Suspected Argentinean Soccer Hooligan
- RSA: Expert Warns Terror Threat against World Cup A 'Possibility'
- RSA Government Spokesman Urges Soccer Fans To Behave Responsibly
- Islamic Scholar Urges Spectators To Picket, Fly 'Palestinian' Flag During Tournament
- Brazilian Police Team in RSA to Study Security Preparations for World Cup
- Local Organizers Express 'Worry' About Traffic Disruptions During World Cup Opening
- Contractor Withdraws Court Action over Use of Pretoria's World Cup Stadium
- RSA Government Warns Employees Against Abusing Leave Policy During World Cup
- Court Orders FIFA to Provide Newspaper With Records of World Cup Tenders
- Video: Fans Line Streets Ahead of World Cup

***Police Following 'Good Lead' To Catch Portuguese Journalists' Robbers*** – The Independent Online reported on 9 June that two men robbed three Portuguese journalists in their chalets at Nutbush Boma Lodge in Magaliesburg, North West Province. Colonel Hangwani Mulaudzi, spokesman for the national police, said the robbers “took laptops, cameras and passports. No shots were fired and no one was injured.” Mulaudzi added that the police “have already combed the place and are busy tracking the suspects and will hopefully make an arrest soon. We have a good lead.”

***RSA Authorities Refuse Entry to 'Another' Suspected Argentinean Soccer Hooligan*** -- SAPA reported on 9 June that the South African Police Service (SAPS) has refused entry to another suspected Argentinean soccer hooligan on 9 June at the OR Tambo International Airport. Police spokesperson Sally de Beer said “ongoing cooperation” between international law enforcement agencies, SAPS and the Department of Home Affairs has to date resulted in 11 soccer hooligans being prohibited from entering the country. Intelligence information indicated that “these persons would commit acts of public disorder, engage in acts of violence and provoke conflict with certain fans of opponent teams and other groups from Argentina during the 2010 Fifa World Cup,” de Beer said.

***RSA: Expert Warns Terror Threat against World Cup A 'Possibility'*** – The Pretoria News Online reported on 10 June that the Institute of Security Studies' researcher Anneli Botha said “by hosting the World Cup we need to understand that our threat perception has changed from non-existent to an unfortunate possibility.” “It is the event that is a target and not the country because by hosting the competition we have attracted huge international media attention and foreigners raising the risk of a terror attack.” She explained that South Africans and their “lack of civic responsibility is the country's Achilles heel in fighting terrorism and crime.” If there was a threat of a terror attack people would not inform authorities not only because they don't have a sense of responsibility, but also because of a massive sense of complacency and lack of knowledge about what to look out for, Botha said.

***RSA Government Spokesman Urges Soccer Fans To Behave Responsibly*** – Buanews Online reported on 9 June that government spokesman Themba Maseko said “All football fans have a responsibility to ensure a safe and secure World Cup tournament for everyone.” “Fans are urged to behave in a way that does not result in injury or harm to those attending tournaments or participating in activities at public viewing areas,” Maseko added. He also urged all South Africans to treat international visitors with the “best hospitality they had ever seen.”

***Islamic Scholar Urges Spectators To Picket, Fly ‘Palestinian’ Flag During Tournament*** -- Voice of the Cape Online reported on 9 June that Dr Ebrahim Akoojee, an executive member of both the Palestine Solidarity Group (PSG) and the Al-Quds Foundation urges spectators at the matches to fly the Palestinian flag to express their solidarity with the territories. Akoojee said that “we should not forget those in Palestine and the attack on the aid flotilla last week.” Akoojee related that there are various pickets planned everyday throughout Cape Town. “There is one in Green Point, which is run by the PSG, Anti-War Coalition and Al-Quds Foundation. There is another picket outside St George's Cathedral, which is a candle light picket and runs from 5pm to 6.30pm [local] every evening.

***Brazilian Police Team in RSA to Study Security Preparations for World Cup*** – The Times Live reported on 10 June that Brazilian police have turned to their South African counterparts for help in planning security for the next World Cup. A delegation of eight Brazilian police officials including a weapons specialist and SWAT team members arrived in Johannesburg last week. The delegation is “looking at infrastructure, technology and communications, deployment, specialized use of weapons, fire emergency and disaster management as well as crowd control.” Brazil will host the tournament in 2014.

***Local Organizers Express ‘Worry’ About Traffic Disruptions During World Cup Opening*** -- AFP reported on 9 June that the World Cup organizers said “everything is in place for Friday's kick-off” but admitted that traffic congestion on the opening-day remains a concern and pleaded with fans to leave their cars home and use public transports. Rich Mkhondo, spokesman of the local organizing committee, said “It's a worry that we may have some gridlock or congestion.” He urged the 90,000 spectators who will be coming to the opening game to use buses and trains “which will drop them right at the door.”

***Contractor Withdraws Court Action over Use of Pretoria's World Cup Stadium*** – On 10 June the Pretoria News Online reported that the “disgruntled” construction company which claimed it was owed millions by the City of Tshwane for upgrading Loftus Versfeld Stadium withdrew its Pretoria High Court action, which aimed to prevent World Cup matches being staged there, on 9 June. HBC Construction Ltd last week filed papers against the Tshwane Metro Council in which it said it would head to court on 8 June to ask for an urgent interdict preventing any game from being played at Loftus until it is paid the more than R28.8 million [rand] which it says it is owed for the upgrading of the stadium.

***RSA Government Warns Employees Against Abusing Leave Policy During World Cup*** – Buanews Online reported on 9 June that the Ministry for Public Service and Administration (MPSA) said government employees who abuse leave during the World Cup could find themselves facing an investigation. MPSA urged all government departments to “adhere to the developed guidelines of leave management within the public service.” It was up to the heads of department to decide on the approval of leave but they would have to take into account the operations of their departments during the tournament, noted MPSA.

***Court Orders FIFA to Provide Newspaper With Records of World Cup Tenders*** -- On 9 June Business Day Online reported that a judge in the Johannesburg High Court ordered FIFA's local organizing committee to give the Mail & Guardian newspaper all its records in respect of tenders it has awarded relating to the World Cup. The judge said that refusing access to these records would enable the cup's organizer to "keep from the public eye documents which may disclose corruption (or) incompetence" in the organization of the event.

***Video: Fans Line Streets Ahead of World Cup*** – e.tv video shows thousands of supporters lining the streets of Johannesburg on 9 June to show their support for the South African team ahead of the opening game of the World Cup. The South African team toured the streets by bus and addressed the fans.